

Bureau of Transportation Planning Research Projects

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Environmental Research

- Aesthetics Opportunity Inventory
 - Done in 2001 by three consultant firms
 - Results: Identified more than 2,000 potential improvement projects along 9,725 miles of state highways, including landscaping and streetscaping
 - What's next: Website under development to share information with prioritization information and a map of opportunities for five-year plan projects
 - Contact: Cynthia Warzecha, MDOT Project Planning Division at (517)373-0146

Environmental Research continued

- Road Run-Off Study
 - Completed 1995/1996 by a consultant
 - Took water samples from three urban areas and looked for heavy metals
 - Concluded 1) road run-off did not exceed water quality standards and 2) more heavy metals came from air pollution rather than road run-off.
 - Contact: Mike O'Malley, MDOT Project Planning Division at (517)335-2634

Environmental Research continued

- Statewide Historic Bridge Inventory
 - Completed in 1995 by a consultant
 - Provides a list of historic bridges on all roads throughout the state
 - The list is on the MDOT web site; popular with the public
 - Streamlined environmental clearance of bridge projects because the resource locations are known
 - Allowed for historic bridge preservation planning
 - Contact Person: Lloyd Baldwin, MDOT Project Planning Division, (517)241-2702

Environmental Research Continued

- Control of Invasive species in wetlands
 - Study currently underway by a consultant
 - Focused on Reed Canary grass, a common invasive species that drives out native and other desirable species from wetlands
 - A topic of concern for all land managers in Michigan struggling to maintain a diverse plant community.
 - Contact: Mike Pennington, MDOT Project Planning Division at (517)335-2619

Intermodal Research

- Intercity Bus and Rail Survey
 - MDOT staff surveyed on-board passengers in 2000 and 2001. University of Michigan staff analyzed data and wrote the report.
Results: Rail users want reliable, faster trains, comfort and frequency of service. Bus users want reliability, comfort and more routes.
 - Practical applications: 1) helps identify system and facility improvement needs 2) determines service levels to meet the travel needs of Michigan passengers
 - Contact Person: KathyHundt, MDOT Intermodal Policy Division at (517)335-2925

Intermodal Research Continued

Benefits of Linear Trails: Featuring the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail, Midland Michigan

- Done by the Department of Park, Recreation & Tourism Resources at Michigan State University
- Citizen survey in Midland County about impact of the rail trail. Examined economic impact of special trail events on community.
- **Results:** 1) Most county residents feel the rail-trail has had a positive effect on the community 2) Two bike events brought \$207,000 and \$260,000 to the community, respectively.
- **Next:** MSU has more funding to expand the study to look at three additional trail corridors.
- Contact: Todd Kauffman, MDOT Intermodal Policy Division at (517)335-2918
